

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3304
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) The details of issues discussed in the meeting of UN conference on Trade and Development held in Bangkok;
- (b) whether the Deputy Administrator of the US Agency for International Development said that Washington does not view the UNCTAD meeting as an appropriate venue to begin negotiations; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) The Tenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD-X) held at Bangkok from 9 to 19 February, 2000 adopted two documents
 - (i) the Bangkok Declaration- A political Declaration on the experience of globalisation, liberalisation and the future role of UNCTAD; and
 - (ii) the Plan of Action-an outline of the work programme of UNCTAD for the next four years till the next conference. The Plan of Action is in two chapters; Chapter I- an analytical chapter on the evaluation of the developmental impact of globalisation, stock taking of major international initiatives and measures taken by the international community to ensure successful integration of developing countries into the world economy; and Chapter II- the substantive section on UNCTAD's engagement, highlighting inter alia, issues relating to international trade, investment, enterprise and transfer of technology.
- (b) The Deputy Administrator for US Agency for International Trade stated in UNCTAD X that 'an operational role for UNCTAD in trade negotiations would involve confusion of institutional roles and a diversion of limited resources to activities for which UNCTAD is not the best suited organisation.'
- (c) The Plan of Action adopted by UNCTAD X preserves the broad mandate of UNCTAD and allows the organisation to continue to examine trade issues from a development perspective without in anyway diminishing its mandate for analysis and consensus building on such issues.